

Board Report – Projects

Recent and current activity

In the past quarter we have:

- Published Insight Bulletins in October and November, and our Christmas Thank-you Bulletin in December
- Published our report on Advocacy and Complaints, and presented it at the ICS Complaints Leads Network Meeting
- Refined the focus of our Neurodiversity project, and made a start on delivery

Our priorities this quarter are:

- Plan insight bulletins for January, February and March
- Continue to publicise our Advocacy report
- Complete fieldwork and be very close to publishing the Neurodiversity report.

Refocussing the Neurodiversity project

In the face of intractably long waits for diagnosis of neurodiversity, a new approach is being pioneered in SABP/SCC designed to deliver needs-based support to those suspected of being neurodiverse before they are assessed and diagnosed. Experience elsewhere (and the consensus locally) is that this will be of great benefit, but it is no secret that the hope is that it will reduce the demand for diagnosis.

In discussion with system partners, including SCC staff members of the Additional Needs and Disability Partnership Board, Surrey Youth Focus, and The National Autistic Society, it became apparent there is a concern that the wider, holistic importance of diagnosis may be overlooked. We have therefore focussed our project on understanding:

- What CYP and their carers expect/hope the benefits of diagnosis will be (social and emotional as well as access to services)
- How this matches experience – for those with a fairly recent diagnosis, how well did their experience match their expectations?

The findings may guide communication and service design for those on the waiting lists for diagnosis.